

PH580: Introduction to Public Health

Online

Instructor: Dr. Cecilia Watkins

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays 9 -12 (Appointment needed)

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Email is the most efficient way to contact me. Be sure and include the course name in the subject line.

Required Text/Materials

Turnock, Bernard J., (2016). PUBLIC HEALTH; What It Is and How It Works. (6th Edition) Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett.

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to public health concepts and practice by examining the philosophy, purpose, history, organization, functions, tools, activities and results of public health practice at the national, state and community levels. The course also addresses important health issues and problems facing the public health system. Case studies and a variety of practice-related exercises serve as a basis for learner participation in real world public health problem-solving simulations. The various components of the course aim to stimulate interactions among learners and instructors around important problems and issues facing public health.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

(Foundational Knowledge *)

1. Explain public health, philosophy and values*
2. Identify the core functions of public health and the 10 Essential Services*
3. List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the United States or other community relevant to the school or program*
4. Discuss the science of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, etc.*
5. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge*
6. Explain effects of environmental factors on a population's health*
7. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population's health*
8. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population's health*
9. Explain the social, political and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities*
10. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels.
11. Evaluates policies for their impact on public health and health equity.

Course Assessments

Activities/Discussion Boards: Online discussion about the history of public health, current values and challenges related to the discipline. Online discussion about the Three Core Functions and Essential Services. Online discussion about historical events versus future challenges. Details shift from infectious disease to chronic disease. Online discussion concerning a selected health issue in which students describe one primary, one secondary and one tertiary intervention that could be introduced to combat the selected issue. Students must submit their initial post in order to view peer's post. Assesses objectives 1 -8.

Reflection Paper: Each student will watch the video series *Unnatural Causes* and write a reflection paper (double-spaced, 12 pt. font). The paper should summarize the series content, detail any personal preconceptions that were confirmed or refuted after watching the videos, critique the series in terms of its relevance to public health, and detail strategies to reduce disparities and increase social justice. Assesses objectives 9 & 10.

Public Health Project Final Paper: Based on information from online searches for existing policies relating to a current global or national public health issue write a 2-3 page paper analyzing existing policies versus needed policies by briefly summarizing the current versus and comparing how the needed policies would improve conditions. Assesses objective 11.

Grading

Activities/Discussion Boards (10@ 10 points each)	100 points
Reflection Paper (Unnatural Causes)	50 points
Public Health Project Final Paper	100 points
Exam 1 Online	100 points
Exam 2 Online	100 points
Exam 3 Online	100 points
Total	550 points

Grades are based on university standards.

A = 90% & ABOVE

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 59% & BELOW

Academic Dishonesty

Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in a course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary sanctions. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure.

WKU Policy on Plagiarism

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offence. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism.

WKU Policy on Cheating

No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking examinations or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment, or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination. For additional information regarding university policies on plagiarism, cheating, and academic integrity refer to WKU Student Handbook.

IU Plagiarism Certificate

Each student will be required as part of this course and as part of the MPH program to complete this online certificate program. At the completion of the program, student should print out and sign the certificate and provide a copy to the PH 580 instructor be kept as part of student record.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at

<https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and

Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at

https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Disability Accommodations

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the

professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

MPH Competencies

This course contributes to the development of the following competencies:

Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health	Obj.
1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice	
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context	
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate	
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice	
Public Health & Health Care Systems	
5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings	
6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels	10
Planning & Management to Promote Health	
7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health	
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs	
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention	
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management	
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs	
Policy in Public Health	
12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence	
13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes	
14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations	
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity	11
Leadership	
16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making	
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges	
Communication	
18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors	
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation	
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content	
Interprofessional Practice	
21. Perform effectively on interprofessional teams	
Systems Thinking (waiting on technical assistance paper from CEPH)	
22. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue	
WKU MPH Program Competencies	
23. Apply health behavior theories and models to address public health problems.	
24. Describe the role of budgeting; methods of seeking extramural funding; and methods of financial analysis in making decisions about policies, programs and services.	

25. Describe the roles of history, power, privilege and structural inequality in producing health disparities.	
26. Integrate social determinants into public health science, practice, and research.	
27. Identify the direct and indirect population health effects of environmental hazards (biological, chemical and physical) on humans, animals and the ecology.	

Foundational Knowledge

This course contributes to the foundational knowledge of public health by addressing the following:

Profession & Science of Public Health	Obj
1. Explain public health history, philosophy and values	1
2. Identify the core functions of public health and the 10 Essential Services.	2
3. Explain the role of quantitative and qualitative methods and sciences in describing and assessing a population's health	
4. List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the US or other community relevant to the school or program	3
5. Discuss the science of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, etc.	4
6. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge	5
Factors Related to Human Health	
7. Explain effects of environmental factors on a population's health	6
8. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population's health	7
9. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population's health	8
10. Explain the social, political and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities	9
11. Explain how globalization affects global burdens of disease	
12. Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health and ecosystem health (eg, One Health)	

PH 580 Tentative Course Schedule Fall 2017

Class # Date	Topic(s)/ Readings	Assignments/Due Date <i>Unless otherwise noted, discussion board initial postings are due Tuesdays (11:59 PM) with 3 replies due by Thursdays (11:59 PM) within the current week of class which runs Monday through Sunday.</i>
Class 1 Aug 21	<u>Readings</u> Chapter 1 What is Public Health? Video: Unnatural Causes (Segment 1: In Sickness and In Wealth)	Discussion Board Chapter 1 Initial posting due midnight Aug 22 Replies due midnight Aug 24
Class 2 Aug 28	<u>Readings</u> Chapter 2 Measuring Population Health Video: Unnatural Causes (Segment 2: When the Bough Breaks)	Discussion Board Chapter 2 Initial posting due midnight Aug 29 Replies due midnight Aug 31
Class 3 Sept 4	<u>Readings</u> Chapter 3 Public Health & the Health System Video: Unnatural Causes (Segment 3: Becoming American)	Discussion Board Chapter 3 Initial posting due midnight Sept 5 Replies due midnight Sept 7
Class 4 Sept 11	Exam 1 (Online) Available September 11 from 12AM until 11:59 PM	(Chapters 1,2,3)
Class 5 Sept 18	<u>Readings</u> Chapter 4 Law, Government & Public Health Video: Unnatural Causes (Segment 4: Bad Sugar)	Discussion Board Chapter 4 Initial posting due midnight Sept 19 Replies due midnight Sept 21
Class 6 Sept 25	<u>Readings</u> Chapter 5 21 st Century Community Public Health Practice Video: Unnatural Causes (Segment 5: Place Matters)	Discussion Board Chapter 5 Initial posting due midnight Sept 26 Replies due midnight Sept 28
Class 7 Oct 2	<u>Readings</u> (Fall Break Oct 5 & 6) Chapter 6 Public Health Workforce Video: Unnatural Causes (Segment 6: Collateral Damage)	Discussion Board Chapter 6 Initial posting due midnight Oct 3 Replies due midnight Oct 9 (Submission time extended for Fall Break)
Class 8 Oct 9	Exam 2 (Online) Available October 9 from 12AM until 11:59 PM	(Chapters 4,5,6)
Class 9 Oct 16	<u>Readings</u> Chapter 7 Managing Public Health Infrastructure Video: Unnatural Causes (Segment 7: Not Just a Paycheck)	Discussion Board Chapter 7 Initial posting due midnight Oct 17 Replies due midnight Oct 19
Class 10 Oct 23	Unnatural Causes Reflection Paper Due Oct 23	

Class 11 Oct 30	<u>Readings</u> Chapter 8 Managing Public Health Interventions	Discussion Board Chapter 8 Initial posting due midnight Oct 31 Replies due midnight Nov 2
Class 12 Nov 6	<u>Readings</u> Chapter 9 Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response	Discussion Board Chapter 9 Initial posting due midnight Nov 7 Replies due midnight Nov 9
Class 13 Nov 13	Readings Chapter 10 Public Health Practice: Future Challenges	Discussion Board Chapter 10 Initial posting due midnight Nov14 Replies due midnight Nov 16
Class 14 Nov 27	Public Health Project Due Nov 27	
Finals Week Dec 4	Final Exam (Online) Available December 4 from 12AM until 11:59 PM	Available December 4 / 12:00AM - 11:59 PM (Chapters 7,8,9,10)